

Message Text

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ACTION ITF-05

INFO OCT-01 NEA-09 ISO-00 EA-06 OPR-02 INSE-00 IO-10 H-02

SS-15 NSC-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 AID-05 FDRE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4495

C O N F I D E N T I A L AMMAN 2847

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: SREF, CB, JO

SUBJECT: THIRD CAMBODIAN REQUEST FOR POLITICAL ASYLUM--EMBASSY

ATTACHE TAING NETH

REF: A) STATE 090532

B) STATE 096189

C) AMMAN 2621

D) AMMAN 2738

1. SUMMARY: ATTACHE' KHMER REPUBLIC EMBASSY IN JORDAN TAING NETH HAS REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US FOR HIMSELF, WIFE, AND THREE CHILDREN. REQUEST ON GROUNDS NETH WAS ONLY MEMBER OF CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN DAKAR TO RALLY LON NOL GOVERNMENT IN MARCH 1970. CHARGE' RESPONDED AS PER STATE INSTRUCTIONS THAT CAMBODIANS SHOULD LOOK FIRST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GOJ, UNHCR AND OTHERS. NETH EXPECTED MAKE FORMAL REQUEST TO GOJ APRIL 30. ALL CAMBODIANS RESIDENT IN JORDAN HAVE THUS APPLIED FOR ASYLUM. END SUMMARY

2. ATTACHE' KHMER REPUBLIC EMBASSY IN AMMAN TAING NETH CALLED ON CHARGE' APRIL 27 TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR HIMSELF, WIFE, AND THREE CHILDREN, CONFIDENTIAL

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LEAVING LETTER ADDRESSED TO AMBASSADOR REQUESTING

SAME. WE ARE POUCHING LETTER (IN FRENCH) TO DEPARTMENT UNDER COVERING AIRGRAM. NETH EXPECTED TO MAKE FORMAL REQUEST TO GOJ APRIL 30 FOR ASSISTANCE.

3. LETTER REQUESTS POLITICAL ASYLUM FOR FOLLOWING PERSONS ALL RESIDENT IN AMMAN. (KHMER PASSPORT DATA ALSO INCLUDED.)

- A. TAING NETH, ATTACHE' IN EMBASSY OF KHMER REPUBLIC IN JORDAN, AGE 35;
- B. MRS. TAING NETH, WIFE, NO AGE GIVEN;
- C. MR. TAING BUNNAVUTH, SON, AGE 14;
- D. MISS TAING CHANTHARY, DAUGHTER, AGE 13;
- E. MR. TAING BUNNAVATH, SON, AGE 10.

4. LETTER STATES NETH REQUESTS ASYLUM IN US BECAUSE SERVED IN REGIME OF LON NOL AND THERE FORE CANNOT RETURN TO CAMBODIA WITHOUT HIM AND FAMILY BEING PERSECUTED BY GOVERNMENT OF KHMER ROUGE COMMUNISTS. LETTER STATES THAT HE AND WIFE, WITH AID OF USG, CAN FIND WORK IN US WHICH WILL ALLOW THEM TO LIVE MODESTLY AND DECENTLY.

5. NETH'S CURRICULUM VITAE:

1939 - BORN TAKEO PROVINCE
1953-58 - ATTENDED COLLEGE PREAH OUTEY IN TAKEO
1959 - ENTERED CAMBODIAN FOREIGN SERVICE AS COMMIS DE CHANCELLERIE
1961-62 - CHANCELIER IN "REPRESENTATION DU CAMBODGE" IN SAIGON
1962-68 - SERVED AS SECRETARY IN SEVERAL FORMIN DEPTS IN PHNOM PENH
1968-71 - CHANCELIER IN KHMER EMBASSY IN DAKAR
1971-75 - SERVED IN SUCCESSION IN BUREAUS OF PROTOCOL, PERSONNEL, AND FINANCE IN PHNOM PENH MIN FOREIGN AFFAIRS
MARCH 1975 - ATTACHE' IN KHMER EMBASSY IN AMMAN

6. IN INTERVIEW WITH CHARGE', NETH INDICATED HE FEARS PERSECUTION BECAUSE HE WAS ONLY MEMBER OF CAMBODIAN EMBASSY IN DAKAR TO RALLY TO THE LON NOL GOVERNMENT IN MARCH 1970. IN ACCEPTING POLITICAL ASYLUM REQUEST, CHARGE' RESPONDED AS PER INSTRUCTIONS REFTEL B, INDICATING THAT BEFORE USG COULD CONSIDER CASE CAMBODIANS SHOULD LOOK FIRST FOR ASSISTANCE FROM GOJ, UNHCR, ICEM
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OR VOLUNTARY AGENCIES. GOJ FORMIN SUBSEQUENTLY CONFIRMED THAT NETH, ALONG WITH OTHER TWO DIPLOMATS IN KHMER EMBASSY AMMAN, HAS MADE FORMAL REQUEST FOR GOJ ASSISTANCE. ALL, HOWEVER, HAVE INDICATED THEIR PRIMARY DESIRE IS RESETTLEMENT IN US.

7. NETH IS THE THIRD AND FINAL REMAINING MEMBER OF

KHMER EMBASSY AMMAN TO REQUEST POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US FOR HIMSELF AND FAMILY, FOLLOWING EARLIER REQUESTS BY AMBASSADOR HONG HOEUNG DOEUNG AND COUNSELLOR LEK CHHAN. THIS MAKES TOTAL OF 29 CAMBODIANS, ALL MEMBERS OR RELATIVES OF MEMBERS OF KHMER EMBASSY, WHO HAVE REQUESTED POLITICAL ASYLUM IN US. ALL HAVE INDICATED THAT THEY ARE ABLE TO REMAIN FINANCIALLY AFLOAT UNTIL MID-MAY. SO FAR AS WE KNOW, THERE ARE NO FURTHER CMABODIANS CURRENTLY RESIDENT IN JORDAN.

8. COMMENT ON GENERAL KHMER POLITICAL ASYLUM PROBLEM HERE BY SEPTTEL.
SUDDARTH

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